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RECENT LITERATURE.

Two Text-Books of Human Embryology.—Only a few years ago the physician who wished to know anything about the development of the human body found his whole supply of information in one or two chapters of his physiological text-book. In some respects the statements to be found there were reliable, but, at least in most American physiologies, they were strange misconceptions, as they could scarcely help being, for they were abstracts, at sixth or seventh hand of the wonderful researches of Bischoff, of Rathke and of von Baer, with never a bit of autoptic knowledge on the part of the compiler.

In the last two decades our knowledge of the embryology of man and of the other mammals has been greatly increased, so that the summary given by Balfour scarcely ten years ago is in many respects behind the times. So a new résumé in English is very acceptable. "It never rains but it pours." The same week brings to our table two works with essentially the same scope—that is the embryology of man and the mammals, with side lights on the lower vertebrates—but of greatly different treatment.

The first to be mentioned, Minot's *Human Embryology*,¹ is a large octavo volume, especially designed for the physician. That is, it seems admirably adapted to lead the medical student or practitioner into a clearer knowledge of the history of the human body, a knowledge of which the average physician has but the veriest smattering. Minot gives first an introduction in which he describes the uterus and outlines the stages of human development. Then the main portion of the book is divided into five parts. In the first we have an account of the history of the genital products and the theory of sex, together with a brief discussion of heredity. In Part Two the origin and meaning of the germ layers are discussed. This portion will prove more or less familiar to our readers, as several of its chapters have already been given in our pages. In the Third Part the chapters treat of the building up of the embryo, those of the Fourth of the foetal appendages, while the Fifth Part takes up the foetus. As an appendix given is an exceedingly condensed list of references to the authorities quoted in the text. Such a table of contents as that

¹Human Embryology by Charles Sedgwick Minot. N. Y., William Wood & Co., 1892, pp. xxiii + 815.

given above must fail to give an adequate idea of this book, and yet it is about as much of detail as our space will allow. In general we may say that the book pleases us; that while we find a few statements here and there which we might question, we feel deeply indebted to Prof. Minot not only for the compilation of such a valuable résumé of the work of other embryologists, but for the numbers of new contributions which we find in his pages. One feature which is of especial value, and which cannot but strike the reader, is the richness of citation of the works of other students. The illustrations also are good, and while most of them are process cuts, the majority have a freshness which is very pleasing.

The other work upon our list, Prof. Mark's Translation of Hertwig's Embryology,² does not need very extended mention, as the original has already been noticed in this journal. Its plan is greatly different from that of Minot in that after the introductory chapters of Part One the history of development is followed for the organs of the different germ-layers: Entoderm, mesoderm, ectoderm and mesenchym. The translation is done in a very satisfactory manner, and a careful reading of a considerable portion of the translation fails to reveal many of the "awkward renderings and German idioms" to which Dr. Mark refers in the preface. One feature of the translation deserves mention. For *anlage* the term *fundament* is used. Had this translation been introduced several years ago it might hope for general acceptance, but now that *anlage* is being bodily carried over into English (Minot, for instance, uses it throughout), we hardly think that the translation will prevail, especially in the face of the other and not obsolete meaning of the word. The printing of the text is good, but some of the cuts of the translation (*clichés* from the German cuts) are muddy and lack the clearness and delicacy of the German edition.

It would have been difficult to find two men better adapted for their respective tasks than these. For ten years Dr. Minot has been accumulating the materials for his portly volume, and he has had exceptional facilities in working over the preparations of some of the European masters. Dr. Mark, on the other hand, brings to the position of translator an accurate and detailed knowledge of the subject matter, and an almost extreme care that every word in his translation shall express, so far as the genius of our language permits, exactly the

²Text Book of the Embryology of Man and Mammals, by Dr. Oscar Hertwig, translated from the third German edition by Edward L. Mark. London, Swan Sonnenschein; New York, Macmillan & Co. 1892, pp. xvi + 670.

idea of his author. A comparison of the two works is difficult. For the student who has already a good foundation in the broader features of general embryology, possibly Mark's Hertwig will prove the more useful, for it gives more the broader features of ontogeny without paying great attention to minor and, for him, unimportant detail. Minot's work, on the other hand, from its method of treatment, may be better adapted for the *student* of medicine, for it takes up the subject more in accordance with the ideas which he receives from the rest of his special training, and in those points which may prove of value in questions of medical jurisprudence it gives a fulness of detail which is foreign to the purpose of the other work. Yet the average practitioner will probably have little to do with either volume. All that he cares to know concerning the questions discussed, would occupy very few pages, and the 670 pages of Mark's Hertwig, and the over 800 in Minot's volume, will, we fear, scare away the very men who most need the information they contain. Yet it is difficult to see how the matter could be much more condensed. The fault is not, in either case, with the author, but rather with the extent of our knowledge. This, however, will prove no drawback for the student of morphology, and, we doubt not, these will be two of the most consulted books in his library, for they are the two most important additions in our language to the literature of biology for the year 1892.

To conclude, we would say that both books are valuable, and should be owned by all morphologists. Minot's volume is possibly the better adapted from its arrangement for the physician, and the greatest objection which we can see to its use by medical men is its size.

Geological Survey of Texas, 1891.³—This volume constitutes the Third Annual Report of the Geological Survey of Texas. It consists of the usual introductory statements of the State Geologist, E. T. Dumble, followed by the several reports of his assistants. The accompanying papers are reports on the geology and paleontology of important regions by specialists in those departments. Mr. Kennedy contributes the result of investigations which carried him across the post-cretaceous deposits, from Terrell, in Kaufman County, in a southeasterly direction to the mouth of the Sabine River. Mr. Cummins gives a detailed report on the geology of the Llanõ Estacado. He traced the Carboniferous formation to its farthest outcrop in Central Texas, determined the northern extension of the Cretaceous along the

³Third Annual Report of the Geological Survey of Texas, 1891. E. T. Dumble, State Geologist, Austin, 1892.